

CERTALERT

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FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT CERTIFICATION BRANCH, AAS-310 267.8728

DATE: March 17, 1997

NO. 97 - 01

TO: AIRPORT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM INSPECTORS

TOPIC: ARFF VEHICLE ROLLOVERS

In the last several years there have been reports of a number of heavy ARFF vehicles rolling over. Few of these rollover events resulted during high speed response to actual aircraft alerts. Most of these events have occurred when drivers were in training, practice, or vehicles were in transit for maintenance or other non-operational reasons.

There appears to be no one particular manufactured vehicle or unique cause that can be attributed to the various accidents. As a result, the FAA is conducting a review into these accidents in an effort to determine the cause and reduce the rollovers. To assist us in our review, please contact Ken Gilliam, Senior Fire Safety Specialist at (202) 267-8758, if any of your ARFF vehicles has been involved in a rollover in the last five years.

Until this review is completed and specific recommendations are made, all drivers of large ARFF vehicles should be aware of the potential danger of a rollover and are urged to exercise caution while driving these vehicles. In addition, driver training and operational procedures should be reviewed until further information can be made available through a research and development effort.

O/S Ben Castellano

03/17/97

Manager, Airport Safety and Compliance

Date

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